

Board President for the Inland Gateway Association of Realtors and he also served as President in 1998. Frank has served the Realtors as the Federal Political Coordinator and State Director for 14 years, and is the 14th district Vice President.

Frank has also served as Chairman of Land Use and Vice Chairman of Property Management and Land Use for the California Association of Realtors. He is a member of Federal Issues, Local Government Relations, and served on a special task force for Private Transfer Tax and presently is serving on the Department of Real Estates for rewriting questions for the California Department of Real Estate license exam.

I also have a personal connection with Frank. He lived across the street from my mother, Marsha, and would often look in on her while I was away. Frank epitomized a good neighbor who was always there to lend a helping hand.

Frank's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. I am proud to call Frank a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as his term ends as the Inland Gateway Association of Realtors Board President.

A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL LEAL, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Dr. Daniel Leal. Originally from Texas, Dr. Leal would describe himself as a Community Psychiatrist. Educated in Texas, Dr. Leal completed his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at the University of Texas, graduating second in his class. He matriculated at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, receiving his medical degree in 1989.

Dr. Leal pursued his internship and residency at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. His training at an inner city hospital fostered his life long interest in outreach to disenfranchised populations such as the mentally ill, the homeless, and the substance abusing population. His last academic training stop was as a fellow in Addiction Psychiatry at NYU-Bellevue. It was here that he studied and published on the effects of chronic homelessness for the mentally ill.

Dr. Leal has continued his advocacy for these individuals as Medical Director for the Washton Institute and as a consultant to Pathways to Housing. He frequently speaks to consumer advocacy groups such as the Alliance for the Mentally Ill and has instructed at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan.

Dr. Leal began working at Woodhull Medical Center in 2000 and feels he has found a supportive and enthusiastic work environment. "Working in emergency psychiatry, I feel it is imperative that I convey to a patient that they will be treated in a humane and respectful manner. The emergency room is often the first contact a patient or their family has with the mental health system. How we respond will often impact the course and outcome of their mental illness."

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Daniel Leal for his extraordinary accomplishments for mental health in New York City.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Daniel Leal.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MOUSTAPHA DIABY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Dr. Moustapha Diaby. We are all saddened by the loss of his presence in this life yet joyful that he has gone to be with his Heavenly Father.

Dr. Moustapha Diaby, a great humanitarian and family man, passed away on November 29th. Dr. Diaby served as the religious guide and President of the African Islamic Institution Presidium, and was a leading candidate for President of the Ivory Coast in elections which were to be scheduled later next year.

Dr. Diaby was a Member of the Health Ministry of the Ivory Coast from 1981–1983 under then President Houphouet-Boigny, and was also a former counsel to both President Houphouet-Boigny and President Bedie. He was extremely well versed in Ivorian politics, and maintained close relations with members of a wide range of Ivorian political parties. A strong subscriber to the philosophy of former President Boigny, the founder of Ivorian independence from France, Dr. Diaby, like President Houphouet-Boigny, was an ardent proponent of tolerance and inclusion of all ethnic groups in the Ivory Coast, as well as the ideas of shared governance and the equitable distribution of resources throughout the country, irrespective of region or religious affiliation.

During the political crisis in the Ivory Coast, wherein a Dutch multinational company, Trafigura, unloaded nearly 600 tons of petrochemical waste in the commercial capital, Abidjan (leading nearly 100,000 Ivorians to seek medical attention), Dr. Diaby utilized his international contacts and did everything within his power to assist those suffering the fallout of the illegal toxic dumping. His activities included working closely with the Congressional Black Caucus of the United States Congress, the U.S. Center for Disease Control, and numerous other international organizations, in an attempt to bring immediate relief to the victims. This included the donations of medical supplies and food to the people of the Ivory Coast suffering from the tragic incident. Dr. Diaby was also the recipient of the "Peter the Great International Award" for merits and peace in 2005 in Dubai, U.A.E., for his efforts in attempting to bring peace to the Ivory Coast.

Dr. Diaby was also an extremely successful businessman, and, with his family, ran a family business by the name of Al-Salasa, with corporate headquarters in Dubai, UAE. Al Salasa is a general trading company and business house offering substantial trading opportunities to local, regional, national and international organizations on partnership, consultancy and joint venture basis.

During the time Dr. Diaby spent overseas, he discussed governance in emerging African democracies, particularly in the Ivory Coast, economic development and international trade, and was an ardent advocate for a cessation of fighting in the Sudan. And as founder of the Moustapha Diaby Foundation, he worked tirelessly to raise funds for education and healthcare for children in the Ivory Coast and on the African continent.

Dr. Diaby will be missed not only by members of his family, but by many in the Ivorian community. Dr. Diaby was a great humanitarian, and a role model for business and political leaders throughout the African continent. The Diaby family will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY: BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO ENTITLEMENT SPENDING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have been concerned about the financial future of our country for some time and in 2006 introduced legislation to set up a national commission to review our nation's long-term economy, including mandatory entitlement spending, discretionary spending and tax policy, and recommend a plan to Congress to get America on a sustainable financial path.

During the 110th Congress this bipartisan legislation—the SAFE Commission Act—was reintroduced with Representative JIM COOPER of Tennessee. The bill has over 110 bipartisan cosponsors in the House, and similar legislation was introduced in the Senate by Budget Chairman KENT CONRAD and ranking member JUDD GREGG.

In November I wrote to President-elect Obama asking that he consider the SAFE Commission as a bipartisan way to mandate action on this critical issue. Mr. Obama has indicated his willingness to reach across the aisle to find bipartisan solutions. I have always believed that working together in a bipartisan manner is what the American people expect of their elected leaders. That's why I have asked the president-elect to join the effort Congressman COOPER and I have been pushing. I submit a copy of this letter for the RECORD.

The American people are experiencing a crisis of confidence. The SAFE concept has active support from many who have a deep understanding of economic issues, and could help restore America's confidence and get us on the right track.

Doing nothing is not an option.

The window of opportunity is now. With the mounting short-term federal deficit from the additional spending needed to get our banking system on sound footing, and the growing long-term debt from mandatory spending programs, we have an historic opportunity to address the nation's financial future in a truly bipartisan manner. I am committed to bringing attention to this issue and getting something done.

Not only are we facing a projected \$1 trillion in deficit spending for this fiscal year, there is now \$53 trillion in unfunded mandates through Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which